

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /085 W
-----040875 310452Z /73-11

R 300600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5022
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
T/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 145
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROM
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, CZ
SUBJECT: APPROACHING WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE

REFS A. PRAGUE 0782 B. BRUSSELS 06067(NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS SECRETARY
AND VICE PRESIDENT BORIS AVERYANOV UNEXPECTEDLY INVITED
EMBOFF TO CALL ON HIM AT WFTU HEADQUARTERS MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS
QUESTION
OF ATTENDANCE AT UPCOMING CONGRESS. AVERYANOV WAS IN GENIAL
MOOD AFTER A LARGE LUNCH AND SAID SEVERAL THINGS OF POSSIBLE
INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE: AVERYANOV SAID UPWARDS OF 900 PERSONS WILL BE ATTENDING APRIL 16-23 WFTU CONGRESS. NEARLY ALL OF LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, AND ASIA WILL BE REPRESENTED, INCLUDING A LARGE FILIPINO DELEGATION. THE CGT WILL BE COMING--THOUGH HE DID NOT SAY AT WHAT LEVEL THE DELEGATION WILL BE LED. THE CGIL HAS NOT YET REPLIED TO THEIR INVITATION, BUT AVERYANOV SAYS HE IS HOPING FOR SOMEONE. ALL IN ALL, HE SAID, ABOUT NINETY ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU WILL BE ATTENDING DESPITE THE ICFTU PROHIBITION ON OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH WFTU. PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO CONGRESS PLANNERS IS THE FACT THAT SOMALIA'S TUC, AN AFFILIATE, IS COMING TO PRAGUE, WHICH MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IF THE ETHIOPIAN WHICH HAS BEEN INVITED, SHOWS UP AS WELL. ANOTHER POTENTIAL COMPLICATION IS THAT THE EGYPTIAN TUC WILL BE SENDING THREE OFFICIALS (FRIENDS OF AVERYANOV'S); HE IS WORRIED HOW OTHER ARAB DELEGATIONS WILL REACT TO THEIR PRESENCE NOW THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF PAN-ARAB LABOR CONFEDERATION(ICATU). OF THE SCANDINAVIANS, THE FINNISH SAK IS COMING BUT THE NORWEGIANS AND SWEDES ARE NOT. THE BRITISH TUC IS NOT COMING BUT THE SCOTTS AND IRISH ARE. AVERYANOV SAYS WFTU HAD BOOKED THREE PRAGUE HOTELS BUT HAS NOW UPPED THE NUMBER TO FIVE.

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3. AGENDA. IN ADDITION TO ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE AND SEPARATE COMMITTEES ON INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS, CONGRESS WILL HAVE TWO COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE TWO MAIN DRAFTS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY. THE FIRST OF THESE, A DRAFT UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS, WAS ADOPTED WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY AT WFTU BUREAU MEETING IN BUDAPEST LAST OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO AVERYANOV, WHO EXPECTS THAT IT WILL BE APPROVED AT THE CONGRESS ALSO WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. THE SECOND DRAFT, OF A DOCUMENT ON POLICY AND ACTION, PROMISES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY. IT WAS NOT AGREED UPON IN BUDAPEST, BUT WAS PUT TOGETHER IN PRAGUE BY A DRAFTING COMMISSION. AS AVERYANOV PUT IT, "IT IS MUCH MORE SENSIBLE TO START WITH A DRAFT, EVEN IF NOT EVERYONE AGREES TO IT AT FIRST." ONE BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE WFTU SECRETARIAT WILL APPARENTLY BE ARTICLE 22 OF THE PREAMBLE, WHICH STATES, "THE CREATION OF THE ETUC HAS REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF THE WORKERS OF WESTERN EUROPE TO STRENGTHEN TRADE UNION UNITY. DESPITE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS, IT IS PART OF A PROCESS OF UNITY, WHICH IS DEVELOPING TOWARDS THE GROUPING TOGETHER OF TRADE UNIONS IN THIS REGION."

4. RESOLUTIONS: RESOLUTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED AND

APPROVED ON EVERY SUBJECT FROM APARTHEID (SOUTH AFRICA
WILL BE REPRESENTED BY AN EXILE GROUP) TO CYPRUS, THE
NEUTRON BOMB AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
THERE WILL BE A PARTICULAR STRESS ON A RESOLUTION ON "PEACE
AND DISARMAMENT," WHICH IS IN PREPARATION ALREADY.

5. POSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY OBSERVER. AVERYANOV REPEATEDLY
STRESSED THE "OPEN" NATURE OF THE CONGRESS, AND
SAID HE HAD "NO OBJECTION" TO A U.S. EMBASSY "OBSERVER"
ATTENDING IT--PROBABLY IN THE GUISE OF AN "ASSISTANT PRESS
ATTACHE" OR SOME SUCH--IN ORDER TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF
THROWING THE DOORS OPEN TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
ACCREDITED TO PRAGUE, HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD
HAVE TO DOUBLE-CHECK WITH PIERRE GENSOUS,
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WHO IS IN FRANCE CONFERRING WITH CGT UNTIL APRIL 3. HE THUS
HELD OUT SOME HOPE THAT EMBOFF MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.
"DECONTROLLED AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE".
BYRNE

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